

**Development District of Central
Texas Board of Directors Meeting**
Central Texas Council of Governments
2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas 76513
Thursday, October 5, 2023—9:30 AM

Board Members Present:

Jamie LaDuke: Hamilton EDC
Dean Roome: Bartlett Municipal Development District
Jim Gibson: Rockdale Municipal Development District
Ginger Watkins: Cameron Industrial Foundation
Dexter Morris: City of Mullin
Charley Ayres: Workforce Solutions of Central Texas
Stacey Ybarra: Lampasas Economic Development Corporation
Ted Gonzalez: Central Texas College
Cynthia Hernandez: Belton Economic Development Corporation
Mick Huston: Headwater Companies
Jason Johnson: Morgan's Point Resort Economic Development Corporation
David O'Connor: Nolanville Economic Development Corporation

Others Present:

Anna Barge: CTCOG
Dominic Elizondo: CTCOG
Tay Floyd: KTMPO
Connie Quinto: CTCOG
Anita Janke: KTMPO

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Ginger Watkins, Chair of the Board, at 9:32 AM. A quorum was present.
2. **Public Comments.** No public comments were made.
3. **Staff Updates.**

Dominic Elizondo gave an update about CTCOG activities including:

 - Leadership Central Texas class was completed with 9 students graduating. The graduation will be on October 26th. Staff are assisting the City of Cameron and the City of Belton with administration of EDA grants. Staff submitted a grant application on behalf of Rockdale ISD for the Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant. We are helping Copperas Cove, Central Texas Water Supply Corporation, and New Life Village with grant and loan applications. Staff are assisting with planning and hosting a Veteran Entrepreneur Summit in January 2024. Mr. Elizondo also provided economic updates for Q3 2023, noting that the unemployment rate went down almost half a percentage point.
4. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding Approval of Meeting Minutes from the July 6th,

2023 Meeting.

Ted Gonzalez made a motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Election of Board Officers.

Ginger Watkins noted that herself and Cynthia Hernandez have been in their roles longer than the bylaws allow. This makes the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair necessary. Ginger opened up the item for a new chair.

Ted Gonzalez made a motion to nominate Dexter Morris for the Chair position, and it was seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously. Ginger Watkins made a motion to nominate Ted Gonzalez for Vice Chair, and it was seconded by Dexter Morris; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Item: Regarding Presentations on Rural Internship Program Participants.

Dominic Elizondo noted that we had three interns in our region: Hamilton EDC, Cameron EDC and Chamber, and San Saba Chamber of Commerce.

Jamie LaDuke of Hamilton EDC gave a presentation about their intern, Brooklyn Bragg's experience. The intern managed social media consolidating social media pages from 5 to one. She also took photos for the Texas Film Commission website. She researched kayak kiosk for city lake and met with downtown business and property owners. She also attended Main Street and EDC board meetings.

Ginger Watkins discussed their intern, Haley White who had just graduated from high school. Their intern completed a lot of social media work related to their downtown, mainly focused on Facebook. She also completed newsletters via Constant Contact.

Both Ms. LaDuke and Ms. Watkins felt like increasing the internship payment this year proved very successful and no additional changes needed to be made.

7. Discussion Item: Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Implementation

Dominic Elizondo discussed the CEDS objective "cultivate, attract, and retain a talented workforce".

Mr. Elizondo read the first strategy and asked Charley Ayres about the P20 Council. Mr. Ayres updated us that the P20 council has changed their name to the Central Texas Regional Pathways Council. It is now funded by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). All the ISDs and Higher Learning Institutions in the 7 counties have MOUs with the council registered at the TEA. The goal is to try to train in high demand industries for Central Texas which are Software Development, Nursing, and Education.

Mr. Elizondo read the second strategy about facilitating entry of Fort Cavazos personnel into local private sector talent pool. This item was discussed on what strategies could be best utilized to support this strategy.

Mr. Elizondo showed the board the draft agenda for the Lampasas Entrepreneur Summit in January 2024 and went over the agenda.

8. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives

Anna Barge updated on the Local Government Broadband Roundtable meeting schedule and the Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) Program. Mrs. Barge updated the board that the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program's Initial Proposal draft and their Texas Digital Opportunity Plan draft comment period is open.

9. Discussion Item: Regarding Federal and State Legislative Updates Pertaining to Economic Development

Anna Barge discussed the upcoming propositions related to economic development that will be on the November ballot. This included Proposition 2 related to childcare facilities, Proposition 7 related to the Texas Energy Fund, and Proposition 8 related to the Broadband Infrastructure Fund.

Dean Roome asked if the Texas Energy Fund would provide funding for small cities like Bartlett. Ms. Barge said she would look into this and let Mr. Roome know.

10. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Grant Opportunities

Dominic Elizondo provided an update on State and Federal grant opportunities and their eligible projects and match, including

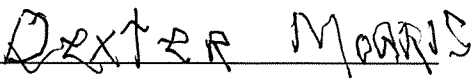
- the Texas Veterans Commission General Assistance Fund
- the EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs
- USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant
- Communities Unlimited Financing
- FY 24-25 OneStar Foundation AmeriCorps Program.

11. Board of Directors' Comments.

There were no comments.

12. Discuss agenda items for next meeting on Thursday, January 4th, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

13. Adjourned at 10:22 AM


Dexter Morris, DDCT Chair


Uryan Nelson, CTCOG Planning Director

